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WLECHA Board

Meritorious Track with Apprehension Submission for Officer Hanizeski and K-9 Nox

On August 23rd, 2018 10:02 p.m. an officer attempted to stop a vehicle which fled. During the vehicle pursuit, the driver jumped out of the vehicle while it was still in motion leaving a passenger behind. The offender ran east from the vehicle along the interstate. K9 Nox and Officer Hanizeski arrived on scene to attempt to track the offender. Once arriving, OCPD received information that the offender was seen by a citizen running southbound through a movie theater parking lot. They responded to that location with a scent article (shoe) from the offender. The citizen witness was sure she saw the subject run south into a wood line. K9 Nox sniffed the scent article. It was a busy Thursday night at the movies with many people walking around through the parking lot. K9 Nox picked up the track and went south as the witness had told officers. K9 Nox got to the end of the parking lot where the asphalt meets the wood line and made a hard turn east through the parking lot. Officer Hanizeski trusted K9 Nox and followed as K9 Nox continued tracking, pulling hard eastbound through the parking lot. Once they got to the east end of the building, K9 Nox turned north and headed straight for the concrete stairs. K9 Nox tracked to the east doors to the movie theater and stopped. OCPD received another call that the suspect was seen running north from the main doors to the theater. Officers started to shift positions. Officer Hanizeski cast K9 Nox out by the main doors to see if he would pick up another suspect track away from the business. K9 Nox did not show any signs that the suspect had gone out those doors and pulled Officer Hanizeski back to the east doors and stared into theater. Officer Hanizeski began to try and coordinate going into the theater when she observed a large amount of people exiting one of the theaters on the east end. Officer Hanizeski saw a subject matching the offender description and started to bang on the doors to get someone to let them inside. The suspect continued walking away down the hall out of sight. Once someone let them in, K9 Nox picked up the suspect track on carpet and pulled down the hall and then onto tile out through the main doors. The suspect was standing just outside the main doors and began to back up away from officers. K9 Nox began to bark at him and he was warned to comply or be bitten. He then complied and was taken into custody for fleeing and eluding and a felony warrant for parole violation for a robbery. This track was especially impressive because the entire track consisted of hard surfaces with very heavy foot traffic.

Thanks for the consideration,

Sgt. Steve York
Day Shift Patrol Supervisor
Oak Creek Police Department
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